

In the claims:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An orthodontic wire retainer, comprising

a first metal wire for conforming to the posterior surface of a dental arch;

a second metal wire for conforming to the anterior surface of the dental arch;

a pair of third metal ~~wire~~ wires extending between the first metal wire and second metal wire;

said third metal ~~wire~~ wires attached to said first and second metal wires to form an annular bridge providing a resilient support for teeth along the dental arch;

a wire rest extending from said ~~third~~ first wire ~~and for resting upon the top surface of the dental arch, said wire rest spaced from the end of the first wire.~~

2. (Original) The orthodontic wire retainer of claim 1, further comprising a wire clasp.

3. (Currently Amended) The orthodontic wire retainer of claim 2 \pm , wherein said wire clasp is W-shaped.

4. (Original) The orthodontic wire retainer of claim 1, wherein said wire rest is L-shaped.

5. (New) The orthodontic wire retainer of claim 1, wherein said wire rest has a first section attached to said first wire and extending toward said second wire.

6. (New) The orthodontic wire retainer of claim 5,

wherein said wire rest has a second section attached to said first second and extending toward said third wire.

7. (New) The orthodontic wire retainer of claim 1, further comprising

a second wire rest extending from said first wire for resting upon the top surface of the dental arch, said wire rest spaced from the end of the first wire.

8. (New) The orthodontic wire retainer of claim 7, wherein said second wire rest has a first section attached to said first wire and extending toward said second wire.

9. (New) The orthodontic wire retainer of claim 8, wherein said second wire rest has a second section attached to said first second and extending toward said third wire.

10. (New) The orthodontic wire retainer of claim 7, wherein said second wire rest is L-shaped.